



# THE COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION'S Quarterly Update

SPRING 2018

## CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

### *Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:*

*The Children's Residential Licensing Program licenses and monitors Adoption Agencies, Foster Family Agencies and Certified Family Homes, Foster Family Homes, Resource Family Homes, Group Homes, Crisis Nurseries, Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelters, Small Family Homes, Transitional Housing Placement Programs, and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs in an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in residential care.*

### A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Welcome to our Spring 2018 Children's Residential Program (CRP) Quarterly Update! The CRP is continuing to develop and learn with all our partners and providers in the child welfare community as we implement the Continuum of Care Reform. Some recent information is listed below.

A Provider Information Notice (PIN) was recently published on the Community Care Licensing Division webpage regarding 2017 Chaptered Legislation affecting children's residential facilities, [PIN 18-02-CRP](#). This includes AB 404, the CCR cleanup bill; SB 612, for transitional housing; SB 213, for criminal records checks; and SB 420, related to the criminal history provided by Department of Justice. Please take time to review this PIN as it contains new requirements for specified providers.

Version 3 of the Interim Licensing Standards (ILS) for Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) implementing the Resource Family Approval program will be posted in the next few weeks. An email with the summary of the changes, other important information about RFA as well as the ILS will be sent to all FFAs

and interested stakeholders. Training for licensing staff and the FFAs will follow after publication.

[All County Letter 18-02](#) was published on January 10, 2018 regarding RFA conversions of licensed Foster Family Homes (FFH) and Certified Family Homes (CFH) that provided respite services in calendar year 2017. Licensed FFHs or CFHs that provided county-authorized respite services between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, inclusive, may be approved as a Resource Family on the date of successful completion of a psychosocial assessment.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[Laundry Detergent Pods](#)

[Talking to Youth](#)

[Prevent Cyberbullying](#)

[Senate Bill 731](#)

[New Inspection Process](#)

[New System News](#)

## Laundry Detergent Pods in the News

A three-year old will put anything in his mouth, especially a colorful candy, a colorful button or a colorful detergent pod. But did you know that there is a dangerous and potentially deadly social media challenge called the “Tide Pod Challenge”? This challenge targets teenagers, daring them to eat laundry detergent pods and post it on social media.

In 2017, there were over 12,000 poison control calls related to laundry detergent pods that primarily involved children under the age of 5 or adults with severe developmental disabilities.

The number of teenagers intentionally eating these gel capsules is on the rise; according to data from the [American Association of Poison Control Centers](#) (AAPCC). In 2016 and 2017, poison control centers handled thirty-nine and fifty-three cases of intentional exposures, respectively, among thirteen to nineteen year olds. That number has increased to 172 among the same age group in 2018.

Laundry pods contain highly concentrated laundry detergent pouches that can be fatally toxic. They are often covered with brightly colored film, making them visually appealing. When they are exposed to water, the film dissolves or ruptures releasing the detergent. If a person puts one of these pods in their mouth and it ruptures, foaming at the mouth, vomiting, nausea, a burning feeling in the eyes, nose and throat, difficulty breathing and other lifetime health complications or even death may occur.

The Tide Pod Challenge is a reminder to caregivers to regularly evaluate safety measures in place when caring for children of all ages.



More information can be found at:

<http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/laundry-detergent-packets/>

<http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/intentional-exposures-among-teens-single-load-laun/>

[Dangers of ingesting laundry detergent packets](#)

[Procter & Gamble looking to stop dangerous "Tide Pod Challenge" trend](#)

## Talking to Youth

It is common for youth to have some inhibitions when it comes to disclosing their thoughts and feelings, when their sense of trust has more than likely undergone a series of injuries. This should not discourage the care provider from trying to engage the youth, but exercising tact and sensitivity is key. Not every youth will be willing to discuss his or her feelings right away, but some may. As a caregiver, being

perceptive, observant, sincere, and completely “in touch” with the here-and-now will help you decide what might be the right place to start the conversation. In the case where a lack of trust is a barrier, a good place to start may be with a topic that the youth cares about. Most importantly, it is the “process” of caring that counts more. For more information, see [Emotional Wellness](#).

## Preventing Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can be broadly defined as any form of harassment or communication (inclusive of the use of unflattering images and videos) intended to hurt and belittle the person on the receiving end of an online communication. Examples include teasing, shaming, and in extreme cases—actual threats of violence.

Cyberbullying is particularly prevalent amongst high school students and continues to grow with the widespread availability and use of social media within that age group. As damaging as the effects of this form of bullying can be to a youth's psychosocial health and development, instances of it rarely get reported. According to a [2011 survey](#) published in the International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health, 79% of youth who had been bullied did not share the experience with anyone.

Awareness and action are the tools to combat the devastating effects of cyberbullying; click the links below to learn how you can identify, address and prevent cyberbullying.

[Stopbullying.gov](#)  
[National Institute of Health](#)

[Department of Homeland Security](#)  
[Federal Trade Commission](#)

For regulatory review:

[§84065.2\(b\)](#) – Personnel Duties  
[§84072\(d\)\(10\) & \(11\)](#) – Personal Rights  
[§84072.1\(b\)](#) – Discipline Policies and Procedures,  
[§87065.2\(b\)](#) – Personnel Duties (STRTP)  
[§87072.1\(c\)](#) – Discipline Policies and Procedures (STRTP)  
[§87072 \(d\)\(10\)-\(11\)](#) – Personal Rights (STRTP)  
[CA Penal Code 653.2. \(a\)](#)

## Senate Bill 731- Placing Youth with Respect to Their Gender Identity

*This article was written by Shannan Wilber, Youth Policy Director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), and Jill Jacobs, Executive Director of Family Builders. NCLR and Family Builders are partners in get R.E.A.L., a statewide initiative to promote the health sexual and identity development of all children involved in the California child welfare system. <http://www.familybuilders.org/getREAL.html>*

In 2015, California became the first state to enact legislation giving all children and nonminor dependents (NMDs) in foster care the right to live in settings that respect their gender identity. [Senate Bill 731](#) articulates the state's [explicit commitment](#) to treat all foster youth equally and to prohibit identity-based discrimination in foster care settings. Child welfare workers and others making foster care placement decisions must treat transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) children like all other children -- regardless of the sex listed in their court or child welfare records. Due to pervasive rejection and bias in their homes, schools and communities, TGNC youth are at [higher risk](#) than their cisgender peers for

depression, suicide, substance use, physical and sexual victimization, and homelessness. Considering their social marginalization, it is not surprising that there are at least [twice as many transgender youth](#) in foster care as their estimated number in the general population. The bill aligns child welfare practice with [evidence-based medical and professional standards of care](#).

In 2017, CDSS issued [regulations implementing SB 731](#) and an [All County Letter](#) clarifying the important practice changes required by the new legislation. These documents provide clear instruction to the field. SB 731, and the guidance provided by CDSS, represents bold and important steps toward the

goals at the core of child welfare practice: to protect and promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of every child in foster care.

## New Inspection Process Project

As part of the Division's continuous quality improvement efforts, CCLD is currently working on the development of a new inspection tool. Improving the effectiveness and quality of the inspection process includes developing and deploying comprehensive, data-driven inspection tools which is essential to these efforts. CCLD is starting with a pilot of the tools for the Adult and Senior Care (ASC) Program and will subsequently complete tools for the Children's Residential and Child Care programs.

For more information on this project please visit the [Inspection Process Project](#) website.

## New System News

The Child Welfare Digital Services (CWDS) is developing the Child Welfare Services - California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) to gradually replace the systems currently in use.

The Certification, Approval, and Licensing Service (CALS) portion of this system will provide an integrated, user-friendly statewide system to manage and track homes and facilities used to place children in out-of-home residential care.

For more information:

- Reach out to the CWDS CALS Team with questions or ideas directly at: [CWDSCALS@osi.ca.gov](mailto:CWDSCALS@osi.ca.gov).
- Stay informed: [Subscribe](#) to the CWDS Stakeholders mail list.
- Visit the website: <https://cwds.ca.gov/>. ("Dashboard" has links to each team's work; "For Stakeholders" has links to events including the Monthly Solutions Demos, Quarterly Stakeholder Forums, Reports, and much more.)
- Following CWDS on social media, including: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [GitHub](#)



Child Welfare Digital Services



Are you interested in becoming part of the Community Care Licensing team?  
Please apply at: [CalCareers website](#)

Please remember to check for new [Provider Information Notices \(PINS\)](#).

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	1-888-422-5669
Foster Care Ombudsman	1-877-846-1602
CCL Public Inquiry and Response	916-651-8848
Technical Support Program	916-654-1541